



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 9th September 2022



1. **Census Forms** – please complete very carefully, making sure all the information is accurate and return these to school at the beginning of next week. Thank you.
2. **Are you entitled to Free School Meals?** For every eligible child registered for Free School Meals (regardless of whether they ever take them or not), schools in N.I. receive additional funding. If you think your children are eligible, please register – it is a big help to the school's creaking finances! If you need help, Lois (our Family Engagement Worker) is happy to assist 😊
3. **Meet the Teacher Afternoon** – over 50 families were represented. Well done and thanks to all those who came along to hear about what the year ahead holds for their children. We were a little stuck for space (because of the Community Centre Hall being out of action due to being re-floored) which made arrangements a little tricky! Thank you for coming and showing support!
4. **Morning drop-off time** – now that the school year is well under way, only the parents of P1 pupils should walk into the playground areas. The old systems we had in place over Covid are now gone. So all parents, except those of little P1s
5. **Children being picked up late after school** – parents must collect their children from school on time. If a child who gets picked up from school finishes at 2pm, their parent/carer should be waiting for them from 1:55pm. Same for those children finishing at 3pm. If a child is repeatedly left late in school, we will have no option but to report this to family services. If some kind of disaster befalls you and is going to keep you late 5 minutes, let Miss Murphy know. The last two Fridays we have had children sitting waiting on parents to arrive for around half an hour. Unacceptable.
6. **Extra-curricular activities** – these start back week beginning Monday 12th September. Parents need to complete an initial registration and return it to school, then parents also need to register their child online every single week. This is for safety reasons; so teachers know who should be present on any given day 3-4pm.
7. **Two-to-Three Waiting Club (P2-P3 only at the moment as P1s still finish half days)** - starts Monday 12th September. All details have already been sent home by the school office. Any queries regarding booking and payment, contact Miss Murphy 90 401246.

8. **Opportunities for parents to get involved** – Lois Corbett, our lovely Family Engagement Worker, has put together a great programme of activities for parents to engage with.

Cregagh First Term Plan

Parent and child engagement – Wednesday 1-2pm

- 7th September - Promo at meet the teachers
- 14th September - Games Café
- 21st September - Mr Wolves Pancake
- 28th September - Sensory Play
- 5th October – Baking
- 12th October - Bear Hunt
- 19th October Making Playdough
- 26th October Halloween Party

Drop-in / Family Support - Wednesday Am 9 – 11

Coffee and opportunity for individual family support
Short info chats

- 14th September – intro to family connections
- 21st September - Cut your food bills
- 28th September - Energy Saving tips
- 5th October – Making a family Budget
- 12th October – Curry in a hurry
- 19th October – Frugal Christmas Ideas
- 26th October - Halloween Party

9. **Attendance target for all pupils 2022-23** – The Department of Education (NI) states that a child with an attendance record of 95% is only just “satisfactory”, as 95% means that 9 days of learning have been lost. As a school, we want to see all children in school every day and on time. Missing days of school or being late for reasons that could easily be avoided sends a message to children that school and education “doesn’t really matter”. Children only get one shot at school; help them make the most of their opportunity.

10. **School Fund** – Most school staff are parents themselves or aunts or uncles and understand that money doesn’t grow on trees – especially at the moment! However, without school fund contributions the boys and girls would miss out on a lot of things. The amount remains at £20 *per family* per school year. This can be paid through our online payment system School Money in either one or several instalments. Thank you very much – especially in these ‘tight’ times 😊

11. **Healthy breaks, no nuts & water only** – Our school has a Healthy Break Policy: only healthy break foods can be eaten Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, children can bring a ‘sweet treat’ to school if they so choose. Children may only bring water to school to drink for break and lunch (not diluted juice). Visit our school website for some healthy break ideas. Our school pupils’ dental health was among the worst in East Belfast 20 years ago, now it’s among the best. Lastly, please remember we are a ‘nut free’ school due to some children and staff having allergies.

12. **School Photographer** – our school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 13th September to take individual & school family photos of pupils (who attend Cregagh PS). Parents are under no obligation to purchase photographs.

***** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY *****

Tuesday 13th September	School Photographer in
Friday 16 th September	Census forms <u>deadline</u> for Cregagh Primary School
Wednesday 16 th November	School Open Night
Wednesday 14 th December	P4-P7 Carol Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (p.m.)
Friday 16 th December	P1-P3 Nativity Play at Mount Merrion Parish Church (a.m.)
Tuesday 20 th December	"Carols Around the Christmas Tree" (p.m.)

